



**"Your Creative
Landscape Professionals"**

Going Green

Hello and happy spring! I hope you are enjoying this well-deserved sunshine. I'm not sure about you, but I really feel like we deserve a little sunshine about now... This was the wettest, coldest, longest winter that I can remember. I heard a saying a while back that "The older you get, you never want the temperature below your age". I am buying into this big time...Palm Springs, here we come.



With our busy schedules these days, who has the time for yard maintenance? Our front page article tells you how to reduce the time required to maintain your yard, mainly by selecting the appropriate plant material. Placing the right plant in the correct location truly minimizes the time required for maintenance.

And on the back page, a couple suggestions for your perfect "Staycation" back yard. With the trend of staying home instead of jumping on a plane for your vacation, families are creating incredible resort-like back yards.

And Fun Yards has been making a few changes in 2009 in our effort to 'Go Green'. We have been identifying small areas where we can improve and taking steps to do the right thing.

A couple of the things that we are doing a little differently:

- We recently purchased a truck that runs on clean-burning propane instead of crude oil.
- We are recycling our paper products at the office.
- We have been sending our 'green' waste to the recyclers to be turned into compost instead of the landfills.

As part of our desire to reduce our 'carbon footprint', we have also decided to continue to snail mail two of our quarterly newsletters but then email the other two. In the past, we have mailed all four. We do have quite a few of your email addresses, but if you don't mind, if you would like to receive the two emailed newsletters, would you please just log onto our website at www.funyardsusa.com and click on the newsletter link and you will be prompted for your email information. I hope you will join us in this small effort to help reduce unnecessary paper.

Enjoy your spring!

Regards,
Alan

FUN FACTS

Summer 2009



With a new synthetic lawn and some attractive plantings, this cozy little house has a new lease on life!

Take Back Your WEEKENDS!

Most homeowners realize that properly installed landscapes increase the beauty, value and enjoyment of their home. But, did you know that your landscape can also be relatively easy to maintain? When you make the right considerations before you plant, you'll do yourself and the environment a big favor. If your landscape is struggling, or if you are considering a refresh in 2009, here's some advice before you take out the shovel or visit the garden center.

First and most important, consider the site conditions. To have a well-established landscape that will flourish for years (think ROI), you need to determine which plants will perform well in specific areas of the property. What direction does your home face? Are some areas of the yard in shade or sun for long periods of time? Are the lawn or the beds irrigated and if so, is drainage an issue? If you have

difficulty making these determinations on your own, our experienced landscape designers can help you. Don't skip this important step.

Once the site conditions are determined, plant selection and plant placement are the next considerations toward achieving a low-maintenance design. When choosing plants, you want to make sure they give you the maximum display for the least amount of work. You also want to make sure the plants you choose will not quickly outgrow their space or require lots of TLC from you.

There are many perennials and flowering shrubs that have a long blooming time or are repeat bloomers. An example of a sun-loving perennial that blooms throughout the year is the 'Happy Return' Daylily; one that tolerates shade is the 'Rozanne' Geranium. These two perennials are wonderful performers and they will

Continued on back side

Continued from front

give you an extended show of color year after year.

Always remember to make sure the plants you choose will perform well in the area of the yard where you plant them. Certain plants do better in shady and wet conditions, as opposed to sunny, dry conditions. Choosing the right plant for the right spot will have a dramatic effect on the health of the plant. One exceptional repeat bloomer that does well just about anywhere is the 'Knock-out' Rose. These beautiful displays of color will last from late spring through late fall.

Once site conditions are considered and the plants have been selected, installation is the last step in making sure the landscape thrives and provides easy maintenance for you during the year. During installation, it is crucial to prep

the beds properly. Adding soil amendments to the beds will provide vital nutrients to the plant which will make it full and healthy. Also, applying a generous amount of granular herbicide annually will cut down on weed growth and save you hours of weeding. Along with the herbicide, a yearly application of a granular ornamental fertilizer will ensure the long-term health of the plants.

Armed with the peace of mind of knowing you have a low-maintenance landscape, you can spend your time doing the things you want. If you still need some help or have questions, feel free to set up a time with one of our landscape professionals. We will come out and walk your property with you and put together a landscape design that needs minimal maintenance and provides maximum enjoyment.



Unbelievable Backyards!

Homeowners increasingly wish to enjoy time outside without losing the comforts of home. Popular features now...

Backyard landscaping with the family in mind. There was a time when homeowners sank their landscape budgets into their front yards so that their homes would look nice from the street. Now they are just as likely to pour dollars into their backyards, to create beautiful, private outdoor places for the family. Large decks and patios – large enough for the whole family, rather than just a small add-on – is becoming an essential part of the home. Gazebos and courtyards also are gaining popularity.

Outdoor cooking stations. These upscale, outdoor kitchens – some of which include sinks and even refrigerators – are replacing the traditional backyard barbecue.

Privacy screening. Americans are spending more time in their backyards, but the average yard size has shrunk. This makes fences, walls and hedges that provide additional backyard privacy more valuable.

You are Our Champions!

Thank you for your referrals...They mean a lot to us.

Wayne Hilton
Powell Brothers
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Barry Philling

Susan Stroh
Karen Lyons
Diane Gaines
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